

28 May 1954

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION, 28 April 1954 (USIAS-M-7)

PARTICIPANTS: Messrs. Haber, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CIA; Messrs. Loomis and
Newpher, USIA

SUBJECT: Research & Library Branch, Central Program
Services Division, USIA, IBS Headquarters, N. Y.

1. Mr. Newpher explained that his Branch is organized in three sections:

a. A Reference Library, which contains: 20,000 volumes (divided equally between foreign-language and English-language reference works); holdings based on receipts of 700 foreign newspapers and 300 foreign magazines; and 10,000 classified documents.

b. A Reference File Section, which is comparable to a newspaper morgue, the holdings being largely domestic information as well as information on 80,000 personalities, about half of which are foreign.

c. A Research Section, which issues periodic reports on aspects of the American scene and irregular studies on foreign matters.

2. Mr. Newpher's staff consists of 24 people, 12 of whom serve in the Library and File sections, and 12 of whom are in the Research section. Of the latter, eight are engaged in research on Americana and four on foreign matters. The latter have produced about 400 research reports from 1950 to date (Mr. Newpher undertook to provide the survey with an annotated bibliography of these reports). The reports are all unclassified and very few are based on information which had to be declassified. They are largely based on research in the overt foreign press.

3. Acquisitions. The Branch's sources of classified information are principally in OIR and CIA. It is Mr. Newpher's experience that the best classified information for the purposes of his research comes from foreign service reports. For this reason,

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State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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25X1A he suggests organized participation by USIA in debriefings of U.S. Government officials returning from abroad. It was felt that debriefings by USIA personnel should be conducted separately from debriefings by intelligence personnel interested primarily in classified information. The Branch's principal source of useful unclassified material is the Soviet press, including provincial newspapers. Mr. Newpher deals with New York outlets also used by CIA and State and, in addition, has established relations with a [REDACTED] who is a particularly fruitful source of Chinese materials.

25X1A 4. Mr. Newpher would welcome a survey of his holdings by OGD, IAD, or any other interested intelligence reference facilities organizations. At present he circulates to key VOA officials a weekly list of selected acquisitions. He undertook to start informing IAD of his acquisitions from [REDACTED]. He feels that his materials are under sufficiently complete control to make their use by intelligence relatively easy when the collection is moved to Washington.

27 April 1954

Extract from
MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION, 27 April 1954 (USIAS-M-5)

PARTICIPANTS: Messrs. Reber, [REDACTED] CIA;
Messrs. Leemis, Logan, Hutchison, McGushin,
Pinkus, Dineen, USIA
Mr. Fisher Howe, State Department

SUBJECT: Press Service (IPS), USIA

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3. Reference Facilities. The photo library contains 47,000 catalog prints and maintains a master file and an accession register. In addition, they have a holding file for material which may or may not warrant cataloging at a later date. Also there is a reference file for pictures of marginal interest. Pictures are cataloged by number, by subject and by personality. Many of these pictures, which are preserved for library purposes, have duplicates in a work file which can be cut up, reproduced, etc. There is informal and satisfactory liaison developing between this unit and the Graphics Register of CIA/OGD. It was thought desirable to permit an IPS man to screen regularly all photographic material coming in to the CIA Register in order to obtain leads as to available pictures which USIA could follow up by obtaining the pictures direct from the sources without any reference to CIA. IPS will try this out with the Register. This principal of operation might be applicable to other than graphic materials, i.e., a writer might be located where he could read intelligence and produce material for IPS based thereon. Such a man could possibly handle the problem of declassification on the spot and also serve to eliminate the unnecessary provision of intelligence in the bulk. This type of operation has been tried internally in USIA by placing an IPS man in Mr. Clem's shop.